

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF PLATTSBURGH, NEW YORK**

September 29, 2011

5:30 P.M.

MINUTES

Present: Mayor Donald Kasprzak, Councilors Tim Carpenter (W1), Mark Tiffer (W2), George Rabideau (W3), Jim Calnon (W4), Chris Case (W5), Chris Jackson (W6)

Absent: None

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the regular meeting of the Common Council held on September 22, 2011 are approved and placed on file among the public records of the City Clerk's Office.

By Councilor Carpenter; Seconded by Councilor Case

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

2. PAYROLLS OF VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS:

RESOLVED: That the payrolls of the various Departments of the City of Plattsburgh for the week ending September 28, 2011 in the amount of \$ 261,437.10 are authorized and allowed and the Mayor and the City Clerk are hereby empowered and directed to sign warrants drawn on the City Chamberlain for the payment thereof.

By Councilor Carpenter; Seconded by Councilor Jackson

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

3. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICES & COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Report of Fire and Ambulance Responses for the week of September 22 – September 28, 2011
- Report from the Building Inspector's Office from May 31, 2011 – September 22, 2011

RESOLVED: That the reports as read are hereby ordered, received and placed on file among the public records of the City Clerk's Office.

By Councilor Rabideau; Seconded by Councilor Tiffer

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

4. CORRESPONDENCE & RECOMMENDATIONS FROM BOARDS: None

5. **AUDIT OF CLAIMS:**

RESOLVED: That the bills Audited by the Common Council in the amount of \$ 745,976.59 are authorized and allowed and the Mayor and City Clerk (where required) are hereby authorized and directed to sign warrants drawn on the City Chamberlain for the payment thereof.

By Councilor Carpenter; Seconded by Councilor Calnon
Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)

6. **PERSONS ADDRESSING COUNCIL: None**

7. **OTHER ITEMS:**

A. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves the City Chamberlain to revise capital project H5110.17 in order to provide sufficient funding for the deck repair of the Webb Island footbridge.

By Councilor Tiffer; Seconded by Councilor Rabideau
Discussion: None
Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)
ACTION TAKEN: Adopted
Follow up Action: None

B. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves a Change Order to Contract #2011-13 "Webb Island Foot Bridge Deck Replacement" in the total amount of \$11,808.

By Councilor Tiffer; Seconded by Councilor Carpenter
Discussion: None
Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)
ACTION TAKEN: Adopted
Follow up Action: None

C. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves Bill Treacy, Manager MLD to write-off unpaid final bills from July 1, 2010 to July 31, 2010 in the total amount of \$1,612.14. The percentage of write-offs for this period is .15%.

By Councilor Jackson; Seconded by Councilor Case
Discussion: None
Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)
ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

D. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves City Chamberlain to adjust the 2011 General Fund Budget by an increase of \$86,961 equally in estimated revenues and appropriations in order to provide funding for the unbudgeted 2011 Fire Department purchases for hose and turn-out gear funded by Federal Assistance Grants.

By Councilor Carpenter; Seconded by Councilor Case

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

E. Motion to waive rule 4 for initial consideration “Request from the City Chamberlain to review for approval the sale of four properties to be auctioned October 28th, 2011, for the collection of delinquent property taxes, provided the auction results are acceptable to the Common Council for the disposal of the properties and the redemption of the property tax liens related to each parcel.”

By Councilor Rabideau; Seconded by Councilor Calnon

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves the City Chamberlain to review for approval the sale of four properties to be auctioned October 28th, 2011, for the collection of delinquent property taxes, provided the auction results are acceptable to the Common Council for the disposal of the properties and the redemption of the property tax liens related to each parcel.

By Councilor Rabideau; Seconded by Councilor Jackson

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

8. TRAVEL REQUEST:

A. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves Bill Treacy Manager MLD to attend the NYMPA’S Semi-Annual Meeting in Syracuse, NY from October 18-19, 2011 at a cost not to exceed \$285.

By Councilor Jackson; Seconded by Councilor Calnon

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

B. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves three Police Officers to attend the “118th Annual International Association of Chiefs of Police Conference and Law Enforcement Education and Technology Exposition” in Chicago, IL from October 22 - 26, 2011 at a cost not to exceed \$8,863.00 and will be paid out of the Asset Forfeiture fund (travel expense).

By Councilor Calnon; Seconded by Councilor Case

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

9. RESOLUTIONS FOR INITIAL CONSIDERATION:

1. Request from Bill Treacy, Manager MLD to advertise for sealed bid for PMLD BID NO. 2011-9-1 “Purchase Revenue Electric Meters.” Bid Opening Date: November 1, 2011 at 11:00 am.
2. Request from the City Chamberlain to review for approval the sale of four properties to be auctioned October 28th, 2011, for the collection of delinquent property taxes, provided the auction results are acceptable to the Common Council for the disposal of the properties and the redemption of the property tax liens related to each parcel. **(Move to agenda under “Other Items” Letter E)**

10. NEW BUSINESS:

Councilor Carpenter said just to keep you guys up to date. We had a Library Board meeting, Tuesday. One of the things that happened there’s been some talk about a geothermal system and a heating system at the Library so we’ve hooked up with a specialist that is going to come through and check their system and give us an actual idea of if there’s work that needs to be done. What kind of work it is, what’s the best way to get it done. I’ll keep you posted when that comes up. I had talked to Councilor Calnon a week or two ago about getting someone from the Library Board on the health insurance task force. They did come up with a name for a representative on the task force. I will get with you after.

Councilor Tiffer said I just wanted to say Happy Birthday to Jacqueline, my significant other.

Mayor Kasprzak presents his 2012 Budget. We began the process in early summer and I directed all the

Department Heads, because of the 2% tax cap imposed by Governor Cuomo and the Legislature, they were going to bring back 0 based budget and they did that. Some of them had separation pay in them for some pending retirements but they basically all came back within my guidelines. I was not going to request the Council; of course you can do this, to utilize this override process that I think; quite a few municipalities, school districts, towns, counties, cities and villages may have to implement. Because if you keep reading the stories about other counties throughout the state there's going to be some real challenges for people to reach that without cutting personnel and services drastically. I can tell you that we continue to maintain our solid capital reserves and a healthy fund balance and its due because of our conservative budgeting, it's due because the Common Council's have made difficult decisions along with me. The Department Heads have brought back fair budget information for us and the cooperating unions have helped as well. So it's been a very good effort since I have been Mayor. It hasn't been fun, it hasn't been enjoyable, but, we got the job done. And I think one of the testaments to that is our recent bond upgrade that we all should be very proud of. On the revenue side we anticipate a very flat state municipal aide figure. We're not going to get anymore; we didn't put any extra in there. Sales Tax there is going to be a slight increase; the census actually gave us a small increase of a percentage as everybody else in the town did too. Basically we didn't increase sales tax too much; I've always been very conservative. So it's just a slight increase, but, it's a positive increase. If you looked around the city, as I'm sure you all have, we had some additional property tax revenue coming in from new building construction. If you take a look at some of the lots that are having housing placed on them and we've got some projects that are started in other areas, it won't be substantial but it is a positive figure which is good. On the expense side which always seems to be the real challenge here we continue to experience completely unacceptable double digit increases on retirement from Albany. It is beyond accepting these things but we have no choice, obviously. We've had increases in workers compensation and obviously health care. So those are things that have affected every single municipality in this entire state. To deal with these expenses and the unfunded mandates that we all have to accept, we're going to utilize about \$1.6 million out of our fund balance to get the numbers I'm going to give you in a minute. That still leaves us in a fairly good position with over \$3 million in that fund as we move forward if things remain stable. I can tell you that if we are on the same course with no support from Albany on unfunded mandate changes, believe me, we need immediate meaningful mandate relief for all of New York State not only Plattsburgh. If Governor Cuomo and the legislature doesn't do that then our fund balance is going to be in jeopardy within a year or two. So I'm just letting everybody know when I give you these numbers that are in my budget I think they're very good for our community but they will not be able to be repeated if we don't get mandate relief help from Albany. The good thing about this is that we are in much better shape then most anybody I know through NYCOM meetings that I attend. My budget will include funding for a Human Resource Director and for an Assistant Public Works Superintendent. So my 2012 budget will provide the following: a zero increase in garbage rates this year, zero increase in sewer rates, zero increase in water rates, and zero increase in electric rates. Our tax increase per 1000 will go from \$10.40 to \$10.48 which results in a .82% tax increase which is less than 1%. Our tax levy is 1.86%. I think that this is a responsible budget. I think it keeps our services for our community in tact for 2012. I can not predict, however, what's going to happen in 2013. I've already started to think about 2013 and 2014 as I give you our numbers for 2012. I think you all have concerns as well. I truly appreciate the help of Richard Marks and his staff. Councilor Calnon and Councilor Jackson are the budget committee or as I call them "the budgeteers." They've been very helpful. They've made some great suggestions. Richard has worked with the departments and unions and we've come up with these numbers. I think the community will appreciate them in the devastating and difficult times that we're all experiencing. But, on the other hand I can guarantee you I think this may be the last year we are at those levels. We're going to have to hope that Albany does their job in addressing some of the

things that affect all the cities and municipalities in the state. You folks as a Council will be meeting. Jim's going to contact you. You will be meeting with department heads to go over the budgets. You may have some savings in there. You will be responsible for making some changes if you will until the second Thursday in January and then you will vote on the budget. The Public Hearing for my 2012 budget will be Thursday, October 13, 2011 at 5 pm in the Common Council Chambers.

Councilor Calnon said what I'd like to do, if you're agreeable, is hold our first budget session the same night as the public hearing. It will give us all a chance to look at the budget that the Mayor is producing. We can probably that night have a general discussion about the highlights. You mentioned, for example, a couple of personnel changes and get some sense on where we think that ought to go. And then at that point set up the rest of our schedule for how we plan to deal with it. I think that's probably the most efficient way to start.

Mayor Kasprzak said I have listened to all of you over the year and obviously some people have different priorities but I felt this was the fairest budget that kept services in tact obviously and affordability as well. So that's why I finally made some of those decisions to come up with those numbers. Richard felt they were comfortable. Chris and Jim did as well, but, Chris and Jim did say that they expect all of you to discuss these things more in detail. There are some things that you probably have to either change if some of the numbers don't come through; sales tax is hopefully on the right level that we expect. And the AIM funding, I'll go to a NYCOM meeting in November, and the aide to municipalities we'll see. I asked NYCOM officials and they haven't heard anything so that may not be a bad thing. On the other hand you may have some additions that you want to consider. I do believe that several of the Department Heads may reduce some of those budgets, possibly, but I'm not guaranteeing that for you. So I think you'll be asking the right questions with your experience and we will get through this. So we can do that, Jim, on the 13th. I appreciate all your help and Chris's and Richard's absolutely.

11. CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

Motion to Adjourn by Councilor Jackson; Seconded by Councilor Tiffer
Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)

MEETING ADJOURNED: 5:45 pm